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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

CH IEN et al.

Serial No.: 10/643,853

Filing Date: August 19, 2003

Title: HCV ANTIGEN: ANTIBODY
COMBINATION ASSAY

Examiner: Z. Lucas

Group Art Unit: 1648

Confirmation No.: 6313

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated November 27, 2006, with a shortened statutory period of three months for response. Accordingly, an extension of time in which to respond is requested and the requisite fee accompanies this response.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

A listing of claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.